United Nations ECE/EX/7

Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Decision on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

The Executive Committee, at its sixty-fifth meeting on 4 December 2013, approved the following:

a. Programme of work for the period 2014-2015 as contained in Annex I;

b. Terms of reference of the Committee and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies[1] as contained in Annex II; and

c. Work plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2013–2014 as contained in Annex III.

[1] The mandates and terms of reference mentioned in this decision replace all previous mandates and terms of reference in the area of sustainable energy and previous Executive Committee decisions related to these mandates and terms of reference. Any bodies or meetings not mentioned in this decision will be considered as non-mandated unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise. The mandates and terms of reference can be modified only by the Executive Committee. Point 31(a) of the 2005 reform review decision applies.

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Annex I

Programme of work of the Sustainable Energy subprogramme for 2014–2015

I. Objectives and strategy

1. The objectives of the subprogramme are set out in the 11 April 2013 Commission Decision A (65) on the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 Reform of ECE (including subsection II E) and the Executive Committee decision of 4 December 2013 on the terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies.

2. Responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Committee on Sustainable Energy. This subprogramme is implemented under the overall oversight of the Executive Committee and is serviced by the Sustainable Energy Division.

II. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2014–2015 biennium

Cluster 1
Sustainable energy policy formulation

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

Increased awareness and understanding on issues and policies related to sustainable energy development

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

1.1 Annual sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (10 half-days)

1.2 Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (4 half-days)

1.3 Meetings of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (4 half-days)

1.4 Meetings of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (4 half-days)

1.5 Reports of the annual sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (2)

1.6 Reports of the meetings of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (2)

1.7 Reports of the meetings of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels (2)

1.8 Annual sessions of the Group of Experts on Gas (10 half-days)

1.9 Reports of the annual sessions of the Group of Experts on Gas (2)

1.10 Meetings of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (4 half-days)

1.11 Reports of the annual meetings of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (2)

1.12 Meetings of the extrabudgetary Gas Centre when held back to back with the Group of Experts on Gas, the Committee on Sustainable Energy or any subsidiary body as appropriate (6 half-days)

(b) Publications and other information material

1.13 Booklets: topics to be identified, including on energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane, UNFC, gas and energy security (6)

1.14 Press releases, press conferences: annual set of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications (2)

1.15 Maintenance of the website providing meeting documents, publications and information on activities related to this subprogramme (2)

Cluster 2
Sustainable energy policy implementation

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

Improved implementation of policy recommendations adopted by the Committee on sustainable energy development

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

2.1 Reports on clean coal technology development (2)

2.2 Report to the UNFCCC on the role of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and usage in the reduction of green-house gas emissions (1)

2.3 Report on evolving energy security risks in the ECE region in a global context (to the extent that it adds to existing knowledge) (1)

2.4 Recommendations on the ways first to provide the people in the ECE region who, at the present, do not have access to energy, with access to clean and renewable energy; and second, people in the ECE region who have limited access to modern energy services, access to clean and renewable energy (1)

2.5 Report on the sustainable use of energy, including clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency (to the extent it adds to existing knowledge) (1)

2.6 Reports on developments in the gas industry (3)

2.7 Reports on the extrabudgetary Gas Centre (2)

(b) Publications and other information material

2.8 Gas Market Developments in the ECE region (1)

Cluster 3
Energy efficiency promotion at consumer level

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

Improved normative and institutional framework to facilitate market formation for energy efficiency projects

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

3.1 Annual sessions of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (8 half-days)

3.2 Reports of annual sessions of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (2)

(b) Publications and other information material

3.3 Energy efficiency related publications financed by extrabudgetary resources

3.4 Comparative assessment of progress on developing smart grids standards in the ECE region (1)

(c) Technical cooperation

3.5 UNFC workshops on theory and practice (3)

3.6 Technical cooperation activities as approved by the Executive Committee and regional advisory services to member States at their request and within the limits of the budget that is allocated for this purpose.

Cluster 4
Promotion and development of renewable energy sources

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

Improved normative and institutional framework to facilitate market formation for renewable energy sources

Outputs/activities

(a) Publications and other information material

4.1 Study on the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technology in the ECE region (to the extent it adds to existing knowledge) (1)

4.2 Best practices on the use of renewable energy in areas that are not connected to the grid (1)

Cluster 5
Normative activities for primary energy production

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, including labelling and classification systems and related legal and policy framework for sustainable energy development

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

5.1 Meetings of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (16 half-days)

5.2 Reports of the Expert Group on Resource Classification (2)

5.3 Report on implementing the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (1)

(b) Publications and other information material

5.4 Update for the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 and Specifications for its Application (1)

Cluster 6
Sustainable energy related activities

Expected accomplishments from this cluster

Enlarged set of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on activities in the field of natural gas and cleaner electricity generation

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

6.1 Meetings (8 half days)

6.2 Reports (2)

Appendix

Legislative mandates[2]

General Assembly Resolutions

60/248	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

Economic and Social Council Resolutions

2013/1	Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe[3]

Economic and Social Council Decisions

2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

Economic Commission for Europe Decisions

E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform
A (65) E/ECE/1464	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

[2] The Executive Committee agrees that the mentioned Resolutions of the ECOSOC and the General Assembly confirm, and in no way change, Decision A (65) of 11 April 2013 of the Economic Commission for Europe.

[3] Point 5 of the Reform Outcome Document reads: In view of the importance of relevant global conferences and initiatives, such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the Secretary-General, and their potential implications for ECE, the Commission expresses its commitment to play, within its current mandate and existing resources, an active part in the appropriate regional and global implementation of their outcomes, and invites its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat to suggest to the Executive Committee possible ways to enhance their contribution to implementing those outcomes.

Annex II

Terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and mandates and terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies

I. Terms of reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

1. The ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy is mandated to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below.

A. Objectives

2. The Committee on Sustainable Energy is an intergovernmental body that provides member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation and is mandated to carry out a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, in line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will carry out concrete and results-oriented activities with the aim to achieve the specific objectives identified for each priority area and they will work in accordance with the "Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies" as adopted by the Commission session on 11 April 2013.

3. The objectives, areas of work and concrete, results-oriented activities indicated in each of the subsequent mandates will orient the work of experts, who may suggest additional areas of work and activities within agreed mandates. All activities should have a clear demonstrable value added, be coordinated with and complementary to the work of other relevant international actors without duplicating their work or mandates[4]. Specific activities to be carried out within the overall framework of the objectives and areas of work mentioned in the agreed mandates shall be decided in a member States driven process and be carried out in an efficient and transparent way.

B. Areas of work

4. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies will focus on issues related to the following areas:

(1) Energy efficiency

(a) In line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;

(b) ECE should help strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

(2) Cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels

ECE should focus on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. Activities aimed at cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels should be developed and implemented with

[4] See document on modalities of the 2011-2012 Review of the 2005 ECE Reform (ECE/EX/ 6 para 11).

the active participation of ECE member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts and academia.

(3) Renewable energy

In line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the ECE should focus on activities that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region.

(4) Coal mine methane

ECE should promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

(5) United Nations Framework Classification

ECE should continue its work on the classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.

(6) Natural gas

ECE should provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of gas in the ECE region.

(7) The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue.

5. The Committee will evaluate the work of its subsidiary bodies on the basis of an annual report prepared by each body that sets out in a succinct way the activities undertaken, the resources used, and the results achieved (with hyperlinks to the outcomes).

II. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

6. The Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency is mandated until December 2015, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below.

A. Objectives

(1) In line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, ECE should focus on activities that help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts;

(2) Strengthening regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Areas of Work

(1) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency;

(2) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the ECE region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

C. Concrete Activities

(1) Share experience on smart grids and other advanced transmission and distribution technologies that help reduce CO2 emissions;

(2) Encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States, in order to help attract investments into energy efficiency;

(3) Help share the experience of the ECE and its members in the area of energy efficiency, with member States of other regions, through the Special Representative for the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative;

(4) Conduct an analysis of the potential for energy efficiency measures in the relevant sectors and, based on the results, establish guidelines and best practices to reach agreed benchmarks (to be identified by the members of the Group and the Committee).

7. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates, including specific projects at regional level, aimed at improving regulatory and institutional frameworks for energy efficiency.

III. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels

8. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels is mandated until December 2015, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objectives mentioned below.

A. Objective

9. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels will focus on activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. Activities aimed at cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels should be developed and implemented with the active participation of ECE member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts and academia.

B. Areas of Work

(1) Regulatory and policy dialogue;

(2) Sharing best practices in the field of cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;

(3) Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), as well as carbon utilization;

(4) Enhanced oil recovery with CO2;

(5) Advanced fossil fuels technologies for power generation;

(6) Evaluation of efficiency enhancing measures for coal-fired power plants including steam generators, air and flue gas systems, steam turbines, generators.

C. Concrete activities

10. Examples of specific CCS international activities for ECE member States to consider are opportunities to collaborate and actively participate in several upcoming Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) Working Groups on the following topics:

(1) Technical working group activities in CO2 utilization options;

(2) CCS technology gaps closure;

(3) Carbon capture energy penalty reduction;

(4) CCS with industrial emissions sources;

(5) Technical challenges for conversion of CO2-enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to CCS;

(6) Identifying and assessing links between technology-related risks and liability;

(7) Competition of CCS with other resources;

(8) Stimulating introduction of innovative technologies, notably on electricity with a focus on controlling emissions;

(9) Conduct an analysis of the efficiency of the fleet of conventional power plants and based on this develop best practices on the implementation of modernization measures from an economic and environmental perspective.

11. The Group of Experts on Cleaner Energy Production from Fossil Fuels should split its work evenly between different clean technologies.

12. The International Energy Agency (IEA), Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI) and CSLF each conduct a wide range of activities related to CCS, many of which should be of interest to various ECE member States. Rather than propose a specific set of projects at this time, non-duplicative projects that are of the most value could be developed through dialogue between these organizations and ECE.

13. The Committee will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States in order to attract investments in advanced fossil fuels technologies for electricity generation with a view to supporting industrial and economic competitiveness and achieving low-carbon sustainable development.

14. Work on cleaner electricity production is not limited to CCS. ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

IV. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy

15. The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy is mandated until December 2015, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

16. In line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" Initiative of the United Nations Secretary General, the Group of Experts will focus on activities that help significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the region and that help achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region.

B. Areas of Work

17. Regulatory and policy dialogue and sharing of best practices on various renewable energy sources, including biomass, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

C. Concrete Activities

(1) Help member States, at their request, identify those communities in the ECE region that, at present, have no access to energy, and suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. Energy companies could be asked to help to achieve that objective;

(2) In view of existing ECE expertise, the Committee will work:

(a) on increasing energy production from renewable sources throughout the region;

(b) on activities that will improve access to heat and power from renewable energy sources in the ECE region, including for communities referred to in the first bullet under this heading;

(c) increase sustainable development of non-forest based biomass production.

(3) Encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States in order to attract investments in energy production from renewable sources, such as in wind, solar and hydro power projects as a means of sustainable development and climate change mitigation;

(4) Consider the development of economically viable and environmentally sound renewable energy and the provision of backup power and capacity to ensure continuity of supply;

(5) In cooperation with IRENA, UNIDO and other relevant actors, conduct an analysis of the potential and competitiveness of renewable energy technologies in the region (relative to energy production from fossil fuels);

(6) Conduct an analysis and establish best practices on the use of renewable energies in isolated and remote power systems.

18. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates. The activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme are complementary to and implemented in cooperation and coordination with other ECE subprogrammes, in particular with the ECE-FAO Forestry and Timber subprogramme.

V. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

19. The Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is mandated until December 2015, with a possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

20. To promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines.

B. Areas of Work

21. Best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane.

C. Concrete activities

(1) Electronically disseminate "Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines" to all major stakeholders in the ECE region and beyond as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (Decision 2011/222) before August 2013;

(2) Prepare suggestions, by August 2013, on how to develop, as appropriate, similar best practices guidance for aspects of Coal Mine Methane (CMM) management that are not covered in detail by the current document such as best practice drilling or low-concentration methane drainage;

(3) Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world;

(4) Facilitate the establishment by United Nations member States of International Centres of Excellence in effective pre- and post-mining extraction and use of CMM, abandoned mine methane (AMM) and ventilation air methane (VAM) and suggest a rational distribution of labour between the Group of Experts and Centres of Excellence to ensure ongoing exchange of information and experience regarding the profitable recovery and use of CMM, AMM, and VAM;

(5) Consider best practices on issues related to drainage, recovery, and usage of coal mine methane.

22. If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal coal mine safety issues unrelated to drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane, these will not be addressed in the ECE context but they may communicate these to other relevant organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) for consideration in the framework of its coal mine safety guidelines.

VI. Mandate and terms of reference of the Expert Group on Resource Classification

23. The Expert Group on Resource Classification is mandated until December 2019 to carry out concrete results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

Classification of energy and mineral reserves and resources.

B. Areas of Work

United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources (UNFC).

C. Concrete activities

(1) Electronically disseminate UNFC to all major stakeholders;

(2) Finalizing the generic specifications to make UNFC operational;

(3) Develop ideas on how the UNFC could apply to and integrate renewable energy by December 2013;

(4) Establish and maintain a Technical Advisory Subgroup to conduct on-going maintenance and periodic updates to UNFC in light of ongoing technological developments including in the field of carbon capture and storage;

(5) Explore and develop other applications of UNFC, including to injection projects, in particular for storage of carbon dioxide;

(6) Invite and facilitate development of case studies on a voluntary and extra-budgetary basis, using the developed specifications and guidelines if any, to assess the suitability of applying UNFC to individual deposits of fossil energy and mineral resources;

(7) Encourage, drawing exclusively on extra budgetary resources, the development of education programmes on UNFC, using in particular the capabilities of industry professional societies;

(8) Develop further specifications and guidelines for UNFC recognizing that it is useful that they be tailored to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of applications pertaining to global energy and mineral studies, government resource management functions, corporate business processes and financial reporting standards.

24. In addition, ECE member States could decide to develop other concrete and results-oriented activities within agreed mandates.

VII. Mandate and terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Gas

25. The Group of Experts on Gas is mandated until December 2017, with possibility of extension, to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities in the work areas and with the objective mentioned below.

A. Objective

26. Provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution and consumption of gas in the ECE region.

B. Areas of Work

27. Policy dialogue and exchange of information and experience among ECE member countries on:

(1) Gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix;

(2) The relation between natural gas and the environment.

C. Concrete activities

(1) Studies, delivered in a timely way, on the sustainable and clean production, transport, and use of gas, including on:

(a) issues that emerge from natural gas market studies carried out in the past;

(b) methods of preventing gas losses and leakages during production and distribution.

(2) Maintain a transparent dialogue between governments and the gas industry through the extrabudgetary Gas Centre to give gas companies the opportunity to meet and liaise with and report to the Group of Experts to exchange relevant information and views.

Annex III

Work Plan of the Expert Group on Resource Classification for 2013–2014

Excerpt from ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/2:

"89. After discussion and review of the programme of work for 2012–13 as recommended at the third session and included in the report of that meeting (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2012/2) and in the light of the Outcome of the Review of the 2005 ECE Reform, the Expert Group agreed on its programme of work for 2013–2014 as provided below and recommended that it be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement.

A. Specifications for UNFC-2009

Description: Specifications (or basic rules of application) are needed for UNFC-2009 in order to ensure an appropriate level of consistency and coherence when it is applied. They provide additional instructions on how the definitions contained in UNFC-2009 must be applied in specific circumstances including, where appropriate, commodity-specific rules. At the first session of the Expert Group, the Specifications Task Force Phase Two (established by and reporting to the Bureau) was tasked to consider all issues raised by stakeholders that are not currently addressed fully in the CRIRSCO Template and/or PRMS and as contained in the final version of the report of the original Specifications Task Force (ECE/ENERGY/2010/8). Following agreement on the final text of the specifications at the fourth session, the Expert Group recommended them for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequently by the ECE Executive Committee. With the finalization of the specifications, UNFC-2009 is now ready for the first rounds of full scale application, in order to fulfill ECOSOC Decision 2004/233.

Work to be undertaken: The generic specifications and the commodity-specific specifications appropriate to solid minerals and petroleum (based on bridging documents to the CRIRSCO Template (for solid minerals) and PRMS (for petroleum)) as agreed at the fourth session are to be published together with UNFC-2009 in all official languages of the United Nations to facilitate further implementation of ECOSOC Decision 2004/233. Prior to the formation of the Technical Advisory Group, the Specifications Task Force is to provide technical advice to UNFC-2009 stakeholders regarding the application of UNFC-2009 and related matters according to its revised Terms of Reference (EGRC-4/2013/INF.4, dated 10 April 2013). The specifications as agreed at the fourth session will be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee for endorsement in the second quarter of 2013.

Deliverables:

(a) Publication of UNFC-2009 together with the specifications as a single publication in all United Nations languages;

(b) A summary report to be presented to the fifth session of the Expert Group of any advice provided by the Specifications Task Force under its revised Terms of Reference, containing among other things:

(i) recommendations for recognizing bridging documents to other classifications;
(ii) review options for broadening the application of UNFC-2009;
(iii) an account of other substantial achievements since the last report; and
(iv) electronic dissemination of the publication containing UNFC-2009 and the specifications where appropriate.

Timeline:

(a) Publication of UNFC-2009 with specifications as soon as practicable following approval to do so by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the ECE Executive Committee and preferably by August 2013;

(b) 2013 to ongoing.

B. Technical Advisory Group

Description: At the first session of the Expert Group it was agreed that the Bureau should progress establishment of a Technical Advisory Group, including development of a mandate, methodology of operation and rules of procedure, list of deliverables, membership list and potential sources of extrabudgetary funding, for consideration at the second session of the Expert Group. A recommendation from the fourth session of the Expert Group, for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for endorsement, is made to establish a Technical Advisory Group. This Group is needed to provide assistance and advice on how to interpret, apply and/or map to UNFC-2009 as and when requested, as well as to compile and analyze the results of such initiatives.

Work to be undertaken: Once consent is obtained from the Committee on Sustainable Energy for the Bureau to establish the Technical Advisory Group, it will perform in accordance with the terms of reference outlined in document ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2013/5. The Bureau will review the terms of reference on an ongoing basis and should any modifications be proposed they would be submitted to the Expert Group for consideration.

Deliverables: Technical Advisory Group established by end-2013 and operational during 2013 or first-half of 2014.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing.

C. Testing and review of UNFC-2009

Description: Widespread testing of UNFC-2009 is essential to ensure the classification meets the needs of its stakeholders and also to ensure it remains current. The Committee on Sustainable Energy has also directed the Expert Group to reinforce its efforts to encourage testing and application of UNFC-2009 as widely as possible and that feedback on this continue to be monitored and reviewed at least every two years.

Work to be undertaken: Encourage members of the Expert Group to test UNFC-2009 in their own work environments. Encourage stakeholders to carry out cross-mapping with other systems. Ideally, this would include government to government mapping, mapping to commercial systems, and testing of the bridging documents to the CRIRSCO Template and PRMS. Results should be compiled and analyzed by the Specifications Task Force (until the Technical Advisory Group is established) and reported to the Bureau and to the Expert Group.

Case studies shall be sought to demonstrate that UNFC-2009 meets the needs of the four principal applications for which it has been designed (international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management: and financial analyses and capital allocation).

Results of testing and case studies on UNFC-2009 should be prepared for review by the Expert Group and then compiled in an electronic publication and posted to the ECE website.

The Bureau is to review UNFC-2009 to determine if any modifications or additions are required to meet the needs of end-users and to facilitate its broader application as envisaged in the Outcome of the Review of the ECE Reform of 2005.

As required under the programme and performance monitoring programme for the current biennium (2012–2013), a report on the Status of the Implementation of UNFC-2009 should be prepared for presentation to the Committee on Sustainable at its twenty-second session in November 2013.

Deliverables: Case studies demonstrating how a UNFC-2009 inventory is built, and how it may be used for: international energy and mineral policy formulation; Government resource management; industry business process management; and financial analyses and capital allocation.

A Status Report on the Implementation of UNFC-2009 for submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its twenty-second session in November 2013. A draft of this will be circulated to the Expert Group prior to submission.

Proposals for modifications to UNFC-2009 to be presented to the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing. The work will be undertaken when opportunities avail themselves respecting that there are currently no funds available to commission it. Results will be reported when available. A summary report of the activities will be made at each meeting of the Expert Group.

D. Education and Outreach

Description: The Expert Group established a Communications Sub-Committee at its first session, with a mandate to develop and implement a communications and education strategy to ensure that opportunities to promote UNFC-2009 globally and to deliver a consistent message are maximized, including through conferences, workshops, articles and technical papers. The Sub-Committee was also tasked to assist with identification of experts in countries and organizations not already represented in the Expert Group. Following finalization of the specifications for application of UNFC-2009, the Communications Sub-Committee will cooperate with the Technical Advisory Group in relation to the increased education and outreach that will be needed to facilitate the roll-out of UNFC-2009. The Communications Sub-Committee will propose a revised mandate to reflect (i) the range of UNFC end-users, including the renewable energy resources sector; (ii) the need to coordinate its work with the Technical Advisory Group once established; and (iii) the need to encompass academic institutions. In the interim the Communications Sub-Committee will coordinate its work with the Specifications Task Force as required.

Work to be undertaken: The Communications Sub-Committee is to continue its work to promote the Expert Group and UNFC-2009 as per its mandate, with a review of activities to be prepared for the fifth session of the Expert Group. Subject to resources (human and financial), attention is to be given to organizing national and regional workshops globally.

Deliverables: A report of the activities of the Communications Sub-Committee to be delivered to the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing (to be reviewed annually).

E. Use of UNFC in classifying injection projects

Description: It was recommended at the first session of the Expert Group that a Task Force on UNFC and Recipient Reservoirs be established by and report to the Bureau to continue to research and develop views on this potential use of UNFC-2009 and identify additional key stakeholders who could provide critical analysis and feedback on the practicality of applying UNFC-2009 for these types of projects. The Task Force is carrying out research on the potential use of UNFC-2009 for classifying injection projects (e.g., storage of carbon dioxide, natural gas storage or other waste disposal projects).

Work to be undertaken: Continue work to investigate how, for example, oil and gas companies classify and evaluate the maturity of their gas injection projects today, and propose a draft bridging document. An update on any findings is to be provided to the fifth session of the Expert Group and relevant documentation prepared for that session.

Deliverables: An assessment of how stakeholders classify and evaluate the maturity of their gas injection projects today. A bridging document for application of UNFC-2009 to injection projects, in particular to the storage of carbon dioxide.

Timeline: 2013–2014 (subject to review at the fifth session of the Expert Group).

F. Application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources

Description: Classification of nuclear fuel resources is currently undertaken according to the NEA/IAEA "Red Book" classification system. The NEA/IAEA "Red Book" will be aligned with UNFC-2009. This is the response to the extensive efforts of IAEA to build technical capacity on UNFC-2009 globally and the ensuing requests from a number of governments. Work on this proposed activity has been underway since 2010 and considerable achievements have been made.

Work to be undertaken: A Task Force, to be led by IAEA, will be established to undertake the necessary work for UNFC-2009 to be applied to nuclear fuel resources.

Deliverables: Establishment of a Task Force led by IAEA to facilitate application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuel resources. A bridging document relating to the NEA/IAEA "Red Book" classification of nuclear fuel resources to UNFC-2009 and vice versa will be presented to the Expert Group for consideration and recommendation at its fifth session. Appropriate guidelines will be incorporated to ensure consistent application of UNFC-2009 to nuclear fuels thereby allowing use of the higher granularity of UNFC-2009 and its harmonization advantages.

Timeline: 2013–2014 (subject to review at the fifth session of the Expert Group).

G. Application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy projects

Description: Renewable energy resources increasingly provide sustainable and much needed fuel and power globally. As the renewable industry becomes a fully commercialized sector, it is important to quantify in a common and transparent way the amount of resources contributed both at a project level and to the regional and global energy systems. This must be undertaken in a way that allows a comparison with other energy resources using common frameworks. If UNFC-2009 could also be applied to renewable energy resources, this would for the first time allow development of a classification system for renewable and non-renewable projects and improve the view of energy sustainability. A general classification system for renewable energy does not currently exist worldwide.

Work to be undertaken: Produce a written assessment of how UNFC-2009 can be applied to renewable energy resources with an accompanying timeline for each of the deliverables. The Bureau will establish a Task Force on Renewable Resources with a number of renewable technology specific sub-task forces.

Deliverables: Establishment of a Task Force on Renewable Resources and sub-task forces as appropriate. A written outline of how the application of UNFC-2009 to renewable energy resources will be accomplished with a timeline for each deliverable will be circulated to the Expert Group and outputs made available on the ECE website prior to submission to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

Timeline: By 1 November 2013 for submission to the twenty-second session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

H. Financial reporting

Description: UNFC has been designed to meet, to the extent possible, the needs of all applications pertaining to financial reporting standards, particularly those promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The Expert Group cooperates closely with the IASB, which has undertaken an extractive activities research project to analyse the unique financial reporting issues applicable to extractive activities and to identify a basis on which a financial reporting model might be developed to address these issues. If the IASB decides in the future to add an International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) for extractive activities to its active agenda, the objective would be to develop an IFRS on accounting for extractive activities that would supersede IFRS 6: Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources.

Work to be undertaken: The Bureau of the Expert Group is to monitor relevant developments in financial reporting globally that might have an impact on reserves and resources and prepare any necessary documentation for the fifth session.

Deliverables: Status report on any changes or developments in the financial reporting sector globally with implications or potential implications for UNFC-2009.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing (with annual review).

I. Collaboration and cooperation with other bodies

Description: UNFC-2009 has been designed to meet essential needs in international energy and minerals policy formulation, Government resources management, industry business processes management and capital allocation. This has required close collaboration and cooperation with stakeholders from these four areas of application.

Work to be undertaken: Continue to collaborate and cooperate with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible and identify new partners, particularly within non-UNECE member countries.

Deliverables: A list of stakeholders who either participate actively in meetings of the Expert Group or who have expressed an interest in doing so is to be prepared for the fifth session of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing.

J. Electronic communication

Description: The dissemination of Expert Group deliverables to relevant stakeholders and end users will continue to be made using electronic communication facilities whenever these are fit for purpose. The Expert Group will likewise use electronic communication internally in the Group and throughout its network. To this end, the network of experts will be maintained using a central inventory of contacts. These activities will reflect the position of ECE as the United Nations-wide centre of excellence on resource classification.

Work to be undertaken: Electronic dissemination of the deliverables of the Expert Group to the extent possible and practicable. Development of a centralized database of UNFC-2009 end-user contacts.

Deliverables: An enhanced and centralized database of UNFC-2009 end-user contacts. Electronic dissemination of the deliverables of the Expert Group.

Timeline: 2013 to ongoing."